



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

June 20, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT-SAND HILL
GROUP HOME, INCORPORATED, SAND HILL GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Sand Hill Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Sand Hill Group Home, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Sand Hill Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Sand Hill Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Sand Hill Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address the several deficient areas.

Sand Hill Group Home needs to trim the shrubbery and plants around the exterior of the Group Home; clean the shower door, window frames, cabinet, and replace the toilet seat in bathroom one; clean the floor, and replace cracked tiles in bathroom two; clean the walls, carpet, window frames, and light fixtures in the children's bedrooms; and maintain current court authorizations, and provide routine evaluations by the prescribing psychiatrist for all children taking psychotropic medication.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Probation Officer
Gene Brown, Executive Director, Sand Hill Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Sand Hill Group Home, Incorporated
Sand Hill Group Home
12108 South Normandie Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90043
Telephone: (323) 777-5588
License Number: 191801773
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Sand Hill Group Home is located in a residential community. Overall, the exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean. However the shrubbery and plants in the yard are overgrown.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in bathroom one, the shower door is dirty, the toilet seat is worn, and the cabinet is dusty. In bathroom two, the floor is dirty, the grout is stained, and sink tiles are cracked or broken.

Children's bedrooms are orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, the walls, carpet, light fixtures, and window frames are dirty. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

1. Sand Hill Group Home management:

- a. Clean the shower door and cabinet in bathroom one.**
- b. Replace the toilet seat in bathroom one.**
- c. Clean the floor and the grout in bathroom two.**
- d. Replace the damaged tiles in bathroom two.**

- e. Clean or paint the walls in the children's bedrooms.
- f. Clean or replace the carpet in the children's bedrooms.
- g. Clean the light fixtures and window frames in the children's bedrooms.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children do not have current court authorization for the psychotropic medications that they are taking. There is no documentation to confirm that one child taking psychotropic medication is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

2. Sand Hill Group Home management:

- a. **Maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.**
- b. **Maintain documentation to confirm that all children taking psychotropic medication are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

SAND - HILL GROUP HOME, INC.
12108 S. Normandie Ave.
Los Angeles, California 90044
(323) 777-5588

Gene Brown, Executive Director

05 / 08 / 06

To : Jacqueline Hayes
From : James Fears, Administrator
Sand - Hill Group Home
Re : Corrected Cited Items

The following is a list of items you found in need of correction during your inspection of our facility and are now rectified.

1. Bird of paradise located in front lawn has now been trimmed and cleared of dead foliage.
2. New mattress has been placed on resident's bed.
3. Bathroom cabinet repainted.
4. Shower doors cleaned.
5. Floor tile re-grouted
6. Carpet scheduled for regular shampooing

Facility manager Mr. Cleo Jackson, James Fears, Administrator and Executive Director Mr. Gene Brown, will inspect facility periodically and will when necessary, take any corrective action needed.

Sincerely,

James Fears, Administrator

Cc: Gene Brown, Executive Director